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Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

Ministère de la Santé et des Soins de longue durée

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ONTARIO GOVERNMENT REDUCING HEALTH CARE WAIT TIMES

New Wait Time Data Shows Double-Digit Drops in the Champlain Area

TORONTO – New data shows the Ontario government's Wait Time Strategy is resulting in decreases in wait times for key health services in the Champlain Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) area, Health and Long-Term Care Minister George Smitherman announced today.

"Trends in the Champlain LHIN area are remarkable with significant decreases in wait times for a number of key health services," Smitherman said. "Through the leadership and hard work of thousands of front line health professionals, the Wait Time Strategy is clearly achieving real results for patients by improving access to care, closer to home."

As a result of the government's Wait Time Strategy, wait times in which nine out of 10 patients have completed their surgery or have had their exam in the Champlain LHIN area have decreased significantly since August/September 2005 by:

- 86.4 per cent for angioplasty (48 days)
- 68.4 per cent for angiography (57 days)
- 54.0 per cent for MRI scans (175 days)
- 29.5 per cent for cancer surgery (33 days)
- 23.0 per cent for cataract surgery (79 days)
- 15.9 per cent for hip replacement (60 days)
- 11.0 per cent for CT scans (nine days).

The wait time for cardiac bypass surgery is below the access target set by the government in December 2005.

Since the launch of the Wait Time Strategy, the Ontario government has invested $73,894,991 for additional procedures in hospitals in the Champlain LHIN area, including:

- 4613 cataract surgeries ($3,384,750)
- 14,153 cardiac procedures ($24,245,333)
- 2,763 hip and knee joint replacements ($21,931,622)
- 1,660 cancer surgeries ($11,426,446)
- 35,192 hours, 52,788 exams MRI ($11,615,840)
- 5,163 hours, 18,071 exams CT ($1,291,000).

The new wait time data is available at www.ontariowaittimes.com, which is closing in on nearly 4 million hits as of today.

"The Champlain LHIN commends the participating hospitals and community agencies for the dramatic

improvement in wait times," stated Robert Cushman, CEO of the Champlain LHIN. "Improved access is a goal for all residents of Champlain and we look forward to working together to further the progress."

Today's initiative is part of the McGuinty government's plan for innovation in public health care, building a system that delivers on three priorities – keeping Ontarians healthy, reducing wait time and providing better access to doctors and nurses.

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